

R E M A R K S

This response is supplemental to the response previously filed on Sept. 17, 2006 which had an omission in the claim format, as per the Office Action of Oct. 26.

Applicant has carefully considered the Office Action of March 23, 2006 rejecting all of the elected claims. The Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 9, 10 and 19-22, and 23.

The Applicant also wishes to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the interview conducted by the undersigned, on October 23, 2006. The present amendment is intended to implement the conclusions of the interview.

Therefore, the present response contains additional amendments to claim 24, but the other pending claims have been retained in the format as submitted on Sept. 17, 2006. Therefore, claims 2, 4-10, 12 and 14-24 remain pending in the case.

The relevant portion of the remarks previously submitted are re-stated here only with regard to claim 24, and the present response is believed to fully address all points of objection raised by the Examiner, and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The present invention discloses a method and assembly for preventing unauthorized manipulation of common cylinder locks, where the manipulation is based on the Bumpkey or Blowgun methods, based on principles of the impact and momentum phenomenon.

The invention is based on a modified pin assembly which prevents impact-driven manipulation of the lock, wherein the modified pin assembly comprises a modified pin set comprising a tumbler pin and driver pin, with the modified pin set being provided with motion alteration means. The motion alteration means is adapted so as to

alter the magnitude of the modified pin assembly response to an impact-driven blow applied to the tumbler pin, relative to the magnitude of the response of the standard pin assemblies contained in the common cylinder lock.

Claim 24 describes the embodiment in which the motion alteration means utilizes modified strength properties of the biasing spring (formerly claim 8).

The Examiner has maintained his rejection of claim 24 under Sec. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stemmerik et al., or alternatively, under Sec. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stemmerik in view of Steinbach or Bessim.

The Stemmerik reference describes a cylinder lock subjected to a manipulation technique using an impact.

As discussed in the previous REMARKS filed with the Jan. 16, 2006 response, and in the previous interviews with the Examiner (March, 2005 and October 2005-with the inventor), it is Applicant's position that the Stemmerik reference contains an inaccurate description of the physical nature of the impact and its result. Due to this inaccuracy, the Stemmerik device cannot be said to reveal the approach of the present invention.

The Examiner is requested to re-read these comments.

In addition to the analysis of Stemmerik previously presented, it is deemed important to point out that Stemmerik contradicts himself in the description of the response to the impact energy, at col. 3, line 13:

"The member 11 in contact with the tumbler pin does not move....."

He then later states at col. 3, line 28:

"To increase the security against the member 11 moving in spite of the impact energy being transmitted to the movable member 10, the member 11 may have a closer tolerance (tighter fit) in the associated bore than that of the remaining driver pins. In this way a friction between this driver pin and the bore is ensured."

Thus, Stemmerik at first states that the member 11 does not move, and then he later states that friction with the bore is needed to ensure this.

By contrast, the invention does not rely on friction with the pins to achieve its goal, whereas Stemmerik does rely on this friction.

Further, Stemmerik does not disclose a "motion alteration means adapted so as to alter the magnitude of its response to an impact-driven blow applied to said tumbler pin..."

For these reasons alone, Stemmerik is inappropriate as a reference teaching.

The present invention is based on intensive research and experimentation, and amended claim 24 presents an alternative embodiment against impact-driven manipulation.

Claim 24 recites a modified pin assembly:

".....wherein said motion alteration means of said modified pin assembly is provided by modified strength properties of the biasing spring associated with said modified pin set in relation to biasing springs of said standard pin assemblies, said modified strength properties being sufficient to attain different response properties of said modified pin set to an applied impact-driven blow without resort to pin-bore frictional forces,

causing said continued driver pin blockage of the shear line by said modified pin set.

The Stemmerik reference describes no such motion alteration means, rather, the reference describes the inaccuracy outlined above, namely, that portion 11 of the driver pin remains in place, or friction is used for this.

Therefore it is the Applicant's position that claim 24 distinguishes over Stemmerik (which is deemed inaccurate), and that this claim is patentable.

Regarding the Steinbach or Bessim patents, as stated previously, and as discussed by the inventor in the Sec.

132 affidavit (para. 27), the use of different spring strengths against a conventional picking technique is not a motivation to use this type of modification against an impact-driven manipulation. This is because, as stated by the inventor, the Steinbach and Bessim patents were filed before the Bumpkey technique was known, so that they cannot provide motivation for the impact case.

Thus, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the pin assemblies via the biasing springs for the impact case, since this case was not recognized as a problem at the time of these patents.

In summary, the following conclusions may be drawn:

- the Bumpkey method of lock manipulation is a serious problem;
- "picking" is a misleading term as related to an impact tool;
- Stemmerick contradicts himself in describing the pin assembly response to the impact energy of the manipulation method;
- the present invention does not rely on friction, whereas Stemmerik does rely on pin-bore friction;
- Stemmerik does not alter the response to an impact-driven blow;
- Steinbach and Bessim do not relate to impact-driven response;


The legal arguments previously submitted in the Sept. 17, 2006 response remain relevant to the request for reconsideration of claim 24, and they are not repeated here.

It is respectfully put forward by the Applicant that there is no reason to consider the newly cited prior art references to Steinbach, Bessim, either individually or in combination with Stemmerik, as rendering the embodiment of claim 24 obvious. None of them discloses the use of a pin assembly with motion alteration means capable of interfering with impact manipulation of cylinder locks.

Therefore, in addition to the other pending claims, independent claim 24 is deemed to be patentable:

In view of the foregoing remarks, all of the claims in the application are deemed to be allowable. Further reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,


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